



HUNTINGDON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL.

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REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

**Borough of Huntingdon**

FOR THE YEAR 1946.

BY

**CHARLES E. HICKS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.**

**Medical Officer of Health.**

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FRIEND & NORTHFIELD, PRINTERS, GRAMMAR SCHOOL WALK.



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# TO THE HUNTINGDON BOROUGH COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my report upon the health of the Borough of Huntingdon for the year 1946, compiled according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health.

The Borough of Huntingdon, with which is incorporated the village of Hartford, is situate on the north side of the River Ouse, It has an area of 2,151 acres, the soil being gravel and clay. The town is composed of a collection of streets, the main one, a mile in length, running in a northerly direction at right angles to the river.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was estimated at 1409.

The Rateable Value is £31,883.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £125 9s. 7d.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5328
Live Births Registered	...	...	...	95	M.	43	F.	52
			Legitimate	...	M.	43	F.	48
			Illegitimate	...	M.	0	F.	4
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	17.8	per 1000	
			England & Wales	...	...	19.1	per 1000	
Stillbirths	...	...	...	4	M.	2	F.	2
						0.75	per 1000	
			England & Wales	...	...	0.53	per 1000	
Deaths due to Childbirth	...	...	...	...				Nil
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	...	...	3	M.	2	F.	1
			Legitimate	...	M.	2	F.	1
			Illegitimate	...				Nil
			Prematurity	...	M.	1	F.	0
			Marasmus	...	M.	1	F.	1
Deaths Registered	...	...	...	71	M.	37	F.	34
						20	over 70 years	
						19	over 80 years	
						3	over 90 years	
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	13.3	per 1000	
			England & Wales	...	...	11.5	per 1000	



There was a slight decrease in the births (105 to 95) and a slight increase in the deaths, 62 to 71, but 42 were aged people.

There were no deaths from Diarrhoea, Diphtheria or Whooping Cough among children. The general health of the inhabitants for the year was very good. There was a slight epidemic of Chicken Pox, but not in a severe form. All houses in which Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever appear are disinfected during the first 24 hrs.

Public Assistance Medical Relief is utilised to a fair extent, principally amongst the older inhabitants, also the Huntingdon County Hospital is used by both In-and Out-patients.

The Public Assistance Institution at St. Neots takes care of cases that are not serious enough to be sent to the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn, Cambs.

The Public Assistance Institution at the North end of the town takes all cases of illness and infirmity from the district with the exception of the Mental cases.

Cases of illness are visited by a District Nurse in their homes, and cases of infectious disease are conveyed to the local Isolation Hospital in Primrose Lane.

Food is examined periodically in the Laboratory, Tenison Road, Cambridge, and Clinical material by Dr. Harvey, of Cambridge through the County Council.

#### **Legislation in force.**

Public Health Acts Amendment Act	...	1890
"                    "                    "	...	1907
"                    "                    "	...	1936
Infectious Diseases Notification Act	...	1889
"                    "                    Prevention Act	...	1890
Notification of Births Act	... ..	1907
Shops Act	... ..	1934

#### **Hospitals.**

There is a voluntary County Hospital in the Borough which received cases. An Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases supported by the rates from this and neighbouring Councils. Cases of small Pox in the Borough are now provided for by the County Council.

#### **Ambulance Facilities.**

There is a sufficient ambulance service in the Borough for ordinary cases and for infectious cases.

### **Clinics.**

There are clinics in the Borough for Tuberculosis, Chest Diseases, Ear, Nose and Throat cases, Child Welfare, Ante-natal matters, Gynaecology, Orthopaedic, and Mental Diseases, under the County Council jurisdiction. The County Hospital also has clinics in Medicine, Surgery, Orthopaedics, Fractures, Nose, Throat and Ears, Skins, Dental cases and Gynaecology.

### **Water Supply.**

There was an adequate supply of water during the year. Rainfall for the year was 23.64 inches as compared with 19.22 inches for 1945.

Samples of water were sent regularly to the Medical Research Council Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge.

The town water is treated by chlorination and the analyses proved satisfactory throughout the year.

In the extreme northern part of the town where there is no piped supply, 8 houses situated in Sapley have been supplied with water by mobile tanks.

### **Sewerage & Sewage Disposal.**

The Council have proceeded with the preparation of a new Scheme of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The provision of a disposal Scheme is needed urgently and the Council's Consulting Engineers hope to present plans to the Ministry of Health by July 1947

The new proposals will allow for a joint Scheme to serve the Borough and the Borough of Godmanchester.

### **Collection & Disposal of House Refuse.**

Collections of House Refuse are made once per week from dwelling houses and at least twice per week from trade premises.

The refuse is destroyed by means of an Incinerator situated well away from the Town.

### **Bathing Place**

The Bathing Place was closed during the year owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the water.

### **Inspection.**

During the year I have made several inspections of the District accompanied by your Sanitary Inspector.

Nuisance Inspection is embodied in the Sanitary Officer's Report, vide page 8.

### Housing.

A Commencement was made in April with the building of houses on the Ambury Hill Field Housing Site. The Scheme provides for 50 houses and 4 bungalows. At the end of the year 10 of the houses were well advanced.

On the Spring Field site off Priory Lane 18 temporary bungalows of the "Spooner" type are being erected and at the end of the year 6 were completed.

When these two schemes are completed the Borough Council will possess 272 houses.

Inspections under Housing Acts have been in abeyance, but have been made and urgent matters dealt with under Public Health Act, 1936.

#### 1. *Inspections of Dwelling-houses during the year.*

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health) ...	54
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	62
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Consolidated Regulations, 1925) and Sec. 5 of the 1936 Act ...	—
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	Nil
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	Nil

### Lodging Houses.

There is one registered Lodging House in the Borough.

### Shops Act, 1934.

During the year inspections have been made of shops occupied in the Borough and conditions were found to be of a satisfactory nature.

The sanitary condition and water supply to the schools is the same as that of the Borough. The schools are kept clean and are well ventilated, and were not closed during the year for epidemic disease.



### **Tuberculosis.**

Cases of Tuberculosis are periodically examined at the County Clinic, or visited by the Health Visitor, and X-rayed at Papworth Sanatorium. The County Council allow patients the statutory allowances, besides priority milk and eggs. There were 3 deaths from Tuberculosis during the year. There were six new cases, one pulmonery, five non-pulmonery.

### **Venereal Disease.**

As this is not a notifiable disease, no record of cases is kept but it is known that the incidence of disease is slight. Cases are treated at Peterborough and Cambridge.

### **Pnuemonia.**

There were 8 cases of this disease, but none fatal.

### **Influenza.**

This disease was quiescent during the year.

### **Cancer.**

There were 13 deaths from Cancer during the year.

### **Varicella.**

There was a slight epidemic this year, 41 cases being notified.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

There were 3 cases notified, but no deaths.

### **Scabies.**

There were a few cases of Scabies, which were satisfactorily dealt with at the Public Assistance Institution or in the patients' homes.

Measles, Whooping Cough and Infective Jaundice are notifiable as a wartime measure. There were 5 cases of Measles reported, 11 of Whooping Cough and 5 of Jaundice. Your Authority inoculates children against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough free of charge.

The following cases were notified under the Act:—

Varicella	...	...	...	41
Tuberculosis Pulmonery	...			1
Non-pulmonery Tuberculosis				5
Pnuemonia	...	...	...	8
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	...	...	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...		1
Whooping Cough	...	...		11
Infective Jaundice	...	...		5
Measles	...	...	...	5



Thirty-one children were immunised against Diphtheria during the year, 26 under 5 years and 5 between 5 and 15 years. It is estimated that approximately 75% of under 5's and 90% of 5-15's have been immunised against Diphtheria. There are no records of the number of children immunised against Whooping Cough in the Borough, but parents have not taken much advantage of this offer by the Council.

### Deaths from Infectious Diseases.

Tuberculosis ... .. 3

### Bye-Laws and Regulations.

The Council have Bye-Laws relating to new streets and buildings and regulations relating to house drainage and water supply.

CHARLES E. HICKS

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*Huntingdon Borough Council.*

HUNTINGDON.

*July 1947.*

### Causes of Death in the Borough of Huntingdon, 1946.

	Males.	Females.
All Causes ... ..	37	34
Tuberculosis of resp. orgs. ... ..	1	1
Tuberculosis (other forms) ... ..	1	0
Cancer ... ..	7	6
Intracranial Vascular lesions ... ..	6	6
Heart Disease ... ..	12	6
Other disease of circulatory system ...	1	3
Bronchitis ... ..	3	5
Other resp. diseases ... ..	1	0
Nephritis ... ..	0	2
Premature Birth ... ..	1	—
Infantile Disease ... ..	—	1
Other Violent Causes ... ..	—	1
Other Defined Causes ... ..	2	3

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1946.

Total No. Inspections made during 1946 ... ..				92
,, ,, Notices Served (Informal) ... ..				44
Complaints received ... ..	Total number of			81
Premises, Houses, etc. (under Sec. 91)	No. inspected ... ..			74
	Nuisances abated ... ..			58
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse ...	No. inspected ... ..			3
	Nuisances abated ... ..			3
Animals improperly kept ... ..	No. inspected ... ..			—
	Nuisances abated ... ..			—
Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit ...	No. inspected ... ..			—
	Nuisances abated ... ..			—
Drain, draintaps, etc., etc.	No. inspected ... ..			8
	Nuisances abated ... ..			6
House, or part thereof, overcrowded	No. inspected ... ..			—
	Nuisances abated ... ..			—
Smoke nuisances ... ..	No. of observations ... ..			2
	Nuisances abated ... ..			2
Offensive accumulations ... ..	No. of inspections ... ..			—
	Nuisances abated ... ..			—
Other Sanitary conditions ... ..	No. inspected ... ..			—
	Nuisances abated ... ..			—
Lodging Houses ... ..	No. registered ... ..			1
	No. of inspections ... ..			1
Slaughter houses and shops ... ..	No. licensed or registered ... ..			5
	No. of inspections ... ..			5
Offensive trades (Section 112 Public Health Act, 1875) ... ..	No. established ... ..			—
Public Health Act, 1936 ... ..	No. of inspections ... ..			—
	No. of houses condemned ... ..			—
	No. closed ... ..			—
	No. cleaned and limewashed ... ..			1
Food—surrender of unwholesome	No. of ... ..			23
Infectious Diseases ... ..	Houses affected with Tuberculosis			1
	Houses inspected .. ..			1
	No. of inspections ... ..			4
	Houses disinfected ... ..			7
	Schools disinfected ... ..			—
	Disinfectant used Newcol : Lawes			—
	Lots of clothing disinfected ... ..			—
	,, ,, destroyed ... ..			—
Pail or Earth Closets ... ..	New provided ... ..			—
	No. converted to W.C.'s ... ..			—
Water Closets ... ..	New provided ... ..			—
	No. supplied with water ... ..			—
Dustbins ... ..	New provided ... ..			3
Water Supply ... ..	Samples taken for analysis ... ..			48
	Samples condemned ... ..			—
	Wells closed ... ..			—
	Wells cleansed, repaired, etc. ... ..			—
	Public supply substituted for well or pond ... ..			1
	Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered ... ..			—
	Waste pipes disconnected from drain ... ..			—

Building Bye-Laws adopted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total Legal Proceedings, i.e. Summons, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.								
Workshops	...	...	...	...	Total number on register (including bakehouses)	...	...	97
					Number in which nuisances abated	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	No. on register	...	...	3
					No. in which nuisances abated	...	...	1
					No. of outworkers	...	...	—
					No. of houses	...	...	—
					No. of infected houses	...	...	—
Legal Proceedings, i.e. Summonses, etc	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—This was controlled by the Milk Marketing Board. Dairies and cowsheds are regularly inspected, and any defects corrected where required by the owners under the 1926 order.

(b) MEAT.—There are six slaughter houses in the district, but have not been in use since all cattle have been slaughtered at St. Ives under a control scheme.

(c) ADULTERATION OF FOOD.—Food inspection and Sampling is carried out by County Weights and Measures Inspector. A quantity of tinned food was surrendered voluntary.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—

No action taken.

### Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk (Milk Sellers)—

No. in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
No. Registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
No. of Inspections of Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
No of Inspections during Milking time...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
No. of Premises requiring Whitewashing, Cleansing, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
No. of Premises requiring Structural or Sanitary Improvements	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Have regulations been adopted...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Yes

Cowsheds with Well Water Supply—

No. of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. of from which water analysed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk (Butter and Cheese Makers)—

No. in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
No. Inspection of Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

E. J. SAUNDERS,  
Sanitary Inspector.

CHARLES E. HICKS,

M.O.H.



# BOROUGH OF HUNTINGDON.

# Infantile Mortality during the Year 1946.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under one year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes	Certified	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	3
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Marasmus	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	3

Nett Births in the year :—

Nett Deaths in the year of:—

Legitimate	...	75
Illegitimate	...	4
Still Births	...	4

Total	83	...	3	}	Total 3
Legitimate Infants	...	...	0		
Illegitimate Infants	...	...	...		

## Tuberculosis.

*New Cases and Mortality during 1946.*

Age Periods	New Cases 5				Deaths 3.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...								
1 ...							1	
5 ...			1					
10 ...								
15 ...			1					
20 ...				1				
25 ...		1						
35 ...								
45 ...					1			
55 ...								
65 and upwards		1				1		
Total		2	2	1	1	1	1	

*Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations), 1925.*

*Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.*

No action was taken.

**Ten Years Fatal Cases of :**

<b>Year.</b>	<b>Cancer.</b>	<b>Phthisis and Tubercular Disease.</b>
<b>1937</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1938</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1939</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1940</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1941</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1942</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1943</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1944</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1945</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>1946</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>112</b>	<b>30</b>





